## **CLAIMS**

1. A particulate water-absorbent resin composition, which is a particulate water-absorbent resin composition comprising a water-absorbent resin (A) of a crosslinked structure obtained by polymerizing an acid-group-containing unsaturated monomer,

5

15

which composition has a particle size such that particles in the range of 850 to  $150~\mu m$  (but not including 850  $\mu m$ ) account for not less than 90 weight % of the entirety, and

which composition contains a tetra- or more functional polyol (B) at least on surfaces.

2. A particulate water-absorbent resin composition, which is a particulate water-absorbent resin composition comprising a water-absorbent resin (A) of a crosslinked structure obtained by polymerizing an acid-group-containing unsaturated monomer,

which composition contains a tetra- or more functional polyol (B) and a tri- or more functional polycation at least on surfaces.

- 3. A particulate water-absorbent resin composition according to claim 2, which has a particle size such that particles in the range of 850 to 150 μm (but not including 850 μm) account for not less than 90 weight % of the entirety.
- A particulate water-absorbent resin composition, which is a particulate
  water-absorbent resin composition comprising a water-absorbent resin (A) of a crosslinked structure obtained by polymerizing an acid-group-containing unsaturated monomer,

which composition has a particle size such that particles in the range of 850 to

WO 2005/044915

PCT/JP2004/016777

150  $\mu$ m (but not including 850  $\mu$ m) account for not less than 90 weight % of the entirety, and

which composition satisfies the following relation:

liquid distribution velocity (LDV) (mm/s)  $> -0.186 \times$  water absorption capacity without load (CRC) (g/g) + 5.75 (wherein LDV > 0.10 (mm/s)).

A particulate water-absorbent resin composition, which is a particulate water-absorbent resin composition comprising a water-absorbent resin (A) of a
 crosslinked structure obtained by polymerizing an acid-group-containing unsaturated monomer,

which composition has a particle size such that particles in the range of 850 to  $150~\mu m$  (but not including 850  $\mu m$ ) account for not less than 90 weight % of the entirety, and

which composition is in the range of 0.03 to 0.15 in surface OH/C ratio as determined by photoelectron spectrometry.

6. A particulate water-absorbent resin composition according to claim 4 or 5, which contains a tetra- or more functional polyol (B) at least on surfaces.

20

15

7. A particulate water-absorbent resin composition according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the water-absorbent resin (A) is in the range of 300 to 600  $\mu$ m in weight-average particle diameter (D50) and in the range of 0.25 to 0.45 in logarithmic standard deviation ( $\sigma\zeta$ ) of particle size distribution.

25

8. A particulate water-absorbent resin composition according to any one of claims 1 to 3 or claim 6, wherein the tetra- or more functional polyol (B) is contained in the range of 0.01 to 20 weight % relative to the water-absorbent resin (A).

9. A particulate water-absorbent resin composition according to any one of claims 1 to 3 or any one of claims 6 to 8, wherein the tetra- or more functional polyol (B) is a sugar alcohol.

5

- 10. A particulate water-absorbent resin composition according to any one of claims 1 to 9, which is not less than 20 g/g in water absorption capacity without load (CRC).
- 11. A particulate water-absorbent resin composition according to any one of claims 1 to 10, which is not less than 20 g/g in water absorption capacity under load (AAP).
- 12. A particulate water-absorbent resin composition according to any one of claims 1 to 11, which is not less than 10 (unit:  $10^{-7} \times \text{cm}^3 \times \text{s} \times \text{g}^{-1}$ ) in saline flow conductivity (SFC).
  - 13. A particulate water-absorbent resin composition according to any one of claims 1 to 12, which is not less than 0.15 (g/g/s) in water absorption capacity without load (CRC) (g/g)/liquid-sucking-up rate-(WR) (s).
    - 14. A particulate water-absorbent resin composition according to any one of claims 1 to 13, which is not less than 0.15 (g/g/s) in water absorption capacity under load (AAP) (g/g)/liquid-sucking-up rate (WR) (s).

25

20

15. A particulate water-absorbent resin composition according to any one of claims 1 to 14, which is not less than 0.50 (unit:  $10^{-7} \times \text{cm}^3 \times \text{g}^{-1}$ ) in saline flow conductivity (SFC) (unit:  $10^{-7} \times \text{cm}^3 \times \text{s} \times \text{g}^{-1}$ )/liquid-sucking-up rate (WR) (s).

16. A particulate water-absorbent resin composition according to any one of claims 1 to 15, which is in the range of 300 to 600  $\mu$ m in weight-average particle diameter (D50) and in the range of 0.25 to 0.45 in logarithmic standard deviation ( $\sigma\zeta$ ) of particle size distribution.

17. A particulate water-absorbent resin composition according to any one of claims 1 to 16, wherein the water-absorbent resin (A) of the crosslinked structure is a further surface-crosslinked one.

10

15

5

18. A process for production of a particulate water-absorbent resin composition, which is a process for production of a particulate water-absorbent resin composition including a water-absorbent resin (A) of a crosslinked structure obtained by polymerizing an acid-group-containing unsaturated monomer,

wherein the water-absorbent resin (A) is such that particles in the range of 850 to 150 µm (but not including 850 µm) account for not less than 90 weight % of the entirety, and further wherein the process includes a step of mixing the water-absorbent resin (A) and a tetra- or more functional polyol (B) together.

- 19. A process according to claim 18 for production of a particulate water-absorbent resin composition, wherein the tetra- or more functional polyol (B) is a sugar alcohol.
- 20. A process according to claim 18 or 19 for production of a particulate water-absorbent resin composition, wherein the water-absorbent resin (A) is in the range of 300 to 600 μm in weight-average particle diameter (D50) and in the range of 0.25 to 0.45 in logarithmic standard deviation (σζ) of particle size distribution.

21. A process according to any one of claims 18 to 20 for production of a particulate water-absorbent resin composition, which further includes a step of carrying out a heat treatment so that 10 to 90 % of the mixed tetra- or more functional polyol (B) will remain unreacted in the particulate water-absorbent resin composition.

22. A process according to any one of claims 18 to 21 for production of a particulate water-absorbent resin composition, which further includes a step of causing the water-absorbent resin (A) to further react with a surface-crosslinking agent (C) other than the tetra- or more functional polyol (B).

5

THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)